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Night Clubs May be in Trouble with City

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A troubled Lansing night club runs into more legal trouble. Fights broke out at The Venue Live on South Cedar Street. The club is no stranger to violence. Last November a man pulled a gun in the parking lot and shot another in the backside. Last June a man was shot in the face outside The Venue Live. There's a new ordinance to make clubs foot the bill when police get called out. The city has yet to pull the trigger. Fights break out, 2 people land in the hospital. It's just the latest round of violence for The Venue Live night club. Now city officials have taken notice and want to do their part to keep the peace for the entire city.

Brig Smith, City Attorney: "The Venue is not the first time the city has had to deal with loud and boisterous crowds. The Venue just happens to be the most-recent large event incident."

That's why city officials want to make clarify an ordinance that would require club owners to follow certain rules.

Brig Smith: "Make sure your security is properly trained, make sure you're adequately staffed, making sure lights and music and rules and regulations are taken care of. If you fail to do the things, the city will do them for you with our officers, but at a certain point we're going to charge you for them."

City Attorney Brig Smith says, right now officials are still trying to figure out what's going to be the trigger to make owners pay.

Brig Smith: "What is a normal event and what is an abnormal event, and what does that cost?"

But once the city figures that out...

Brig Smith: "We're going to put you on notice that you are requiring an extraordinary drain on city resources, and if you continue to do this, we're going to recover our costs because it's not fair to our taxpayers to shoulder this additional load simply because you are failing to maintain the public peace."

And if they don't keep the peace, Smith says club owners may have to pay to ultimate price and lose their license.



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